



Charles Laubie
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Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended): A protective device for the confinement of explosive objects or objects suspected of being explosive comprising:

a first sleeve and a second sleeve, wherein the second sleeve substantially surrounds the first sleeve, and wherein the second sleeve is configured to be slidable relative to the first sleeve, wherein the first sleeve and the second sleeve are coupled with an expansion joint; wherein at least one of the first or the second sleeve comprises:

at least one opening at each axial end of the sleeve;

at least one layer of splinter-proof fabric; and

wherein one end of the sleeve is configured to be positioned on a surface, and wherein the sleeve is configured to remain substantially vertically, and wherein the sleeve is configured to substantially surround a suspect object resting on the surface.

2. (Currently amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the first and/or second sleeve further comprises at least one protective ring, and ~~wherein the protective ring comprises a plurality of~~

comprise one or more protective rings, wherein the protective rings comprise one or more layers of splinter-proof fabric.

3. (Currently amended): The device of claim 2, wherein a protective ring ~~comprises~~ is composed of:

a wound strip of splinter-proof fabric, the ends of which are coupled together by at least one reinforcing seam;

~~at least one axial fastening; and~~

~~at least one reinforcing seam.~~

4. (Currently amended): The device of claim 2, wherein the first and/or second sleeve comprise one or more reinforcing rings, wherein the reinforcing rings comprise one or more layers further ~~comprises a reinforcing ring comprising at least one layer of material possessing a rigidity sufficient to hold the first and/or second sleeve in the a vertical position when the sleeve is placed on an end of the sleeve.~~

5. (Currently amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the first and/or second sleeve further ~~comprises at least one reinforcing web, and wherein the reinforcing web substantially surrounds the first and/or second sleeve.~~

6. (Canceled): ~~The device of claim 1, further comprising:~~

~~a first sleeve; and~~

~~a second sleeve, wherein the second sleeve substantially surrounds the first sleeve
, and wherein the second sleeve is configured to be slidable relative to the first
sleeve.~~

7. (Canceled): ~~The device of claim 1, wherein the first sleeve and the second sleeve are coupled
with an expansion joint.~~

8. (Previously presented): The device of claim 1, further comprising an inner protective layer,
wherein the inner protective layer is fire-resistant.

9. (Currently amended): The device of claim 2, wherein the first and/or second sleeve further
comprises at least one reinforcing web, ~~and wherein the reinforcing web substantially surrounds
the first and/or second sleeve.~~

10. (Canceled): ~~The device of claim 2, further comprising:~~

~~a first sleeve; and~~

~~a second sleeve, wherein the second sleeve substantially surrounds the first sleeve,
and wherein the second sleeve is configured to be slidable relative to the first
sleeve.~~

11. (Canceled): ~~The device of claim 10, wherein the first sleeve and the second sleeve are
coupled with an expansion joint.~~

12. (Canceled): ~~The device of claim 11, further comprising an inner protective layer, wherein
the inner protective layer is fire-resistant.~~

13. (Canceled): ~~The device of claim 4, further comprising:~~

~~a first sleeve; and~~

~~a second sleeve, wherein the second sleeve substantially surrounds the first sleeve, and wherein the second sleeve is configured to be slidable relative to the first sleeve.~~

14. (Canceled): ~~The device of claim 13, wherein the first sleeve and the second sleeve are coupled with an expansion joint.~~

15. (Canceled): ~~The device of claim 14, further comprising an inner protective layer, wherein the inner protective layer is fire resistant.~~

16. (Canceled): ~~The device of claim 7, wherein the sleeve further comprises at least one reinforcing web, and wherein the reinforcing web substantially surrounds the sleeve.~~

17. (Canceled): ~~The device of claim 7, further comprising:~~

~~a first sleeve; and~~

~~a second sleeve, wherein the second sleeve substantially surrounds the first sleeve, and wherein the second sleeve is configured to be slidable relative to the first sleeve.~~

18. (Canceled): ~~The device of claim 7, wherein the first sleeve and the second sleeve are coupled with an expansion joint~~

19. (Canceled): ~~The device of claim 7, further comprising an inner protective layer, wherein the inner protective layer is fire resistant.~~

20. (New): The device of claim 1, wherein the expansion joint includes an annular skirt or a plurality of tongues.

21. (New): The device of claim 1, wherein the second sleeve is shorter than the first sleeve.

22. (New): The device of claim 1, wherein the expansion joint have a length such that, when the expansion joint is stretched, a covering over the first sleeve by the second sleeve is maintained.